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SYMPOSIUM

A MODEL ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF PRISONERS

PREFACE

A Model Act for the Protection of Rights of Prisoners (Model Act), a product of a committee of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, was published late in 1972. This symposium is a collection of articles analyzing the provisions of the *Model Act* in light of the present status of prisoners' rights.

The symposium begins with an introduction by Mr. Sol Rubin, Counsel for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and one of the draftsmen of the *Model Act*. Mr. Rubin discusses the origins and purposes of the *Model Act*. Mr. Rubin was later provided with copies of the other articles; part two of his introduction contains his response to the comments of the other contributors. Professor James A. Jablonski of the Washington University School of Law then examines the provisions of the *Model Act* in terms of what he believes should be its primary function—the control of the discretion of prison administrators. Mr. James W. L. Park, now Facilities and Program Planner for the California Department of Corrections, and formerly Associate Warden of Administration at the California State Prison at San Quentin, discusses the problems of prison administration which might be created by the assertion of prisoners' rights under the *Model Act*. Mr. Charles Mann, Executive Director of the Bureau for Men in St. Louis, argues that the *Model Act* should have sought to improve the quality of life in prison by upgrading prison personnel and instituting social service programs in prisons. Finally, Professor Fred Cohen of the School of Criminal Justice of the State University of New York at Albany criticizes the *Model Act* for its failure to address some key issues and its failure to expand existing prisoners' rights. The *Model Act* is reprinted in an appendix following the articles.

